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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE

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1. In the Georgian SSR, during the summer, many of the streams became so shallow that they could not provide the water power necessary for the operation of Georgian hydroelectric power stations. An urgent need was first felt in the mid-thirties to build one large power station in a strategic location which could compensate for the several stations which stood idle in summer. The Khram Hydroelectric Power Station Construction Trust (Khram Gidro-Elektrostantsiya Stroitel'stvo - Khram GESStroy) was set up in 1935 or 1936 to supervise this project, which was completed in 1947 with much machinery, especially generators, from Sweden. GruzGidro Stroy [redacted] was successor to KhramGESStroy. 25X1A The KhramGESStroy project consisted of a large hydroelectric station, the capacity of which I do not know, and a large water reservoir (vodokhranilishche) on the Khram River close to the village of Tsalka. The station's capacity must have been planned to be quite high, since it was to make up for three stations which were completely or almost completely idle during six summer months of the year. These three stations were:

   a. Zemo Avchalsk Hydroelectric Power Station (ZAGES), located on the Kura River 15 km northwest of Tbilisi;

   b. Rion Hydroelectric Power Plant (RionGES) on the Rion River close to the Rion Railroad station;

   c. Chitakhevi Hydroelectric Power Plant (ChitakheviGES) located on the Kura River close to Borzhomi (N41-51, E43-23).

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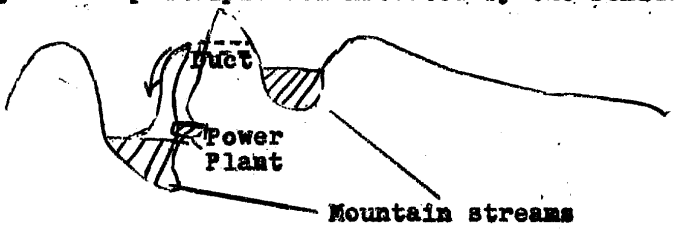
(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

2. Eventually KhramGESStroy was entrusted with the construction of another hydroelectric power station, namely SukhumGES, located on a mountain stream about 30 km. from Sukhumi /4300N-4102E/. Construction of the Sukhumi Hydroelectric Power Station (Sukhumskaya Gidroelektricheskaya Stantsiya -- SukhumGES) started in the late thirties and was completed in 1948. This hydroelectric power station operated through the entire year and was not affected by lack of water in summertime. I never visited this station, but I was told that its construction was done according to the principle demonstrated by the following figure:



3. Later, KhramGESStroy supervised the building of a third hydroelectric power station, SamgoriGESStroy, which was actually an entire system of several stations; the center of this system was located approximately 60 km. southeast of Tbilisi. The Samgori Hydroelectric Power Station (Samgori Gidroelektricheskaya Stantsiya Stroitel'stvo -- Samgori-GESStroy) was a very large construction project with the threefold purpose:

a. To create favorable conditions for the construction of three hydroelectric power stations /see below/.

b. To utilize water from the reservoir (vodokhranilishche), which had to be built within the system of these new hydroelectric power stations, for the irrigation purposes of Samgori Valley. The Samgori Valley had 10,000 hectares of very fertile but dry soil.

c. To utilize the water reservoir, referred to as Tbilisi Sea (Tbiliskoye More), as a bathing resort for the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

For construction of this hydroelectric and irrigational project, a large dam was built on the Iora River, approximately 60 km. southeast of Tbilisi. Through a system of pipes, ducts, tunnels, and open streams, the water from the river was diverted into the Tbilisi Sea about 40 km. from the dam and 15 km. from Tbilisi. Three hydroelectric power stations were supposed to be constructed between the dam and Tbilisi Sea. Work on Tbilisi Sea was completed late in 1951, and on 4 December 1951 the Sea was put into operation. At that time all three hydroelectric power stations were under construction and were scheduled to be completed late in 1952. I assume that they were completed on time.

4. When it became apparent early in 1951 that the name of KhramGESStroy no longer corresponded with its actual activities, the Khram Hydroelectric Power Station Construction Trust was abolished, and in its place was created the new organization called GruzGidroStroy.